

What is Claimed Is:

1. A terminal assembly, comprising
  - a terminal base having a bore with a internal thread;
  - 5 a screw having a shank with opposite first and second ends and with an external thread, and having a head on said first end of said shank; and
  - a deformation in a portion of said external thread adjacent said second end of said shank;
  - 10 whereby said deformation limits removal of said screw from said bore.
2. A terminal assembly according to claim 1 wherein said deformation comprises a stake in said second  
15 end of said shank.
3. A terminal assembly according to claim 2 wherein said second end of said shank is circular; and said shank extends along a chord of said second  
20 end.
4. A terminal assembly according to claim 2 wherein said shank is offset from a longitudinal axis of said shank.  
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5. A terminal assembly according to claim 1 wherein said portion of said external thread forming said deformation has a reduced width between adjacent crests thereof relative to other portions of said external thread.

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6. A terminal assembly according to claim 1 wherein  
a backing plate has a central aperture receiving  
said shank and is positional between said head and said  
terminal.

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7. A terminal assembly according to claim 6 wherein  
said backing plate comprises a depending tab; and  
said terminal base comprises an opening slidably  
receiving said tab.

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8. A terminal assembly according to claim 6 wherein  
said backing plate comprises depending first and  
second tabs on opposite side edges thereof; and  
said terminal base comprises first and second  
15 openings slidably receiving said first and second tabs,  
respectively.

9. A terminal assembly according to claim 1 wherein  
said terminal base comprises a contact extending  
20 therefrom.

10. A terminal assembly according to claim 1 wherein  
said external thread has an axial length  
sustaining greater than an axial length of said internal  
25 thread.

11. A terminal assembly, comprising:

a terminal having a base plate including a bore with an internal thread of a first axial length;

a screw having a shank with opposite first and second ends and with an external thread of a second axial length threadedly mating with said internal thread, and having a head on said first end of said shank, said second end of said shank being circular, said second axial length being substantially greater than said first axial length;  
10 and

a stake formed in and extending along a chord of said second end of said shank, said stake creating a deformed portion of said external thread having a reduced width between adjacent crests thereof relative to other portions of said external thread, said deformed portion of  
15 said external thread forming a stop which does not threadedly mate with said internal thread.

12. A terminal assembly according to claim 11 wherein

20 a backing plate has a central aperture receiving said shank and is positional between said head and said terminal.

13. A terminal assembly according to claim 12 wherein

said backing plate comprises a depending tab; and  
25 said terminal base comprises an opening slidably receiving said tab.

14. A terminal assembly according to claim 12 wherein  
said backing plate comprises depending first and  
second tabs on opposite side edges thereof; and  
said terminal base comprises first and second  
5 openings slidably receiving said first and second tabs,  
respectively.

15. A terminal assembly according to claim 11 wherein  
said terminal comprises a contact extending from  
10 said base plate.

16. A method of forming a terminal assembly comprising  
the steps of:  
threading an external thread of a shank of a screw  
15 into a bore in a terminal with an internal thread, the shank  
having opposite first and second ends with a head at said  
first end; and  
deforming a portion of the external thread  
adjacent the second end of the shank to limit the amount the  
20 screw can be backed out of the bore.

17. A method according to claim 16 wherein  
said second end is staked along a line extending  
across the second end and offset from a longitudinal axis of  
25 the shank.

18. A method according to claim 16 wherein  
said shank is placed within a central aperture of  
a backing plate before being threaded into the bore.

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